

Meeting Date: March 8, 2007

Agenda Item No. 16

Agenda Item: Fish Management Plan

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Scott A. Grunder, Fishery Program Coordinator, Fisheries Bureau

Background: Mr. Grunder will summarize public and agency comments received on the 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan and the Department's disposition of those comments. As a final action, the Fisheries Bureau will ask the Commission to approve the 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan as the Department's statewide guidance document for fisheries management over the next six years.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues: The 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan describes how the Department intends to manage public fisheries for the next six years as per its mission found in Idaho Code Section 36-103. The Department's strategic plan has a goal to "Improve public understanding of and involvement in fish and wildlife management." This plan considers public desires and biological needs and sets management direction and goals. The Commission sets policy and provides direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department-recommended plans. The Fisheries Bureau seeks Commission approval of the Fisheries Management Plan.

Public Involvement Process: The Department conducted a random mail survey seeking angler opinions on various fisheries management issues. Surveys were mailed to 8,400 resident and 1,200 non-resident anglers. Results are summarized in the Fisheries Management Plan. During the past year, the Department solicited public comment on two occasions for the Fisheries Management Plan (summer and winter 2006) for approximately three months.

Staff Recommendation: The Fisheries Bureau is seeking Commission approval of the 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan.

Justification: Fisheries Bureau staff have been redrafting this plan since late 2005. We have completed an angler opinion survey and allowed for three full months of public and agency comment on the Fisheries Management Plan. Public comment has been appropriately considered and incorporated. The plan is ready for approval by the Commission.